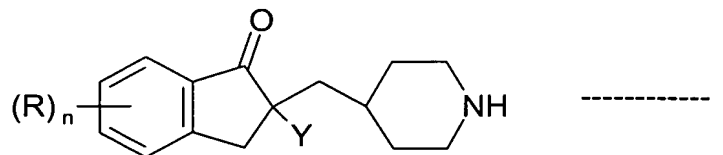


We claim:

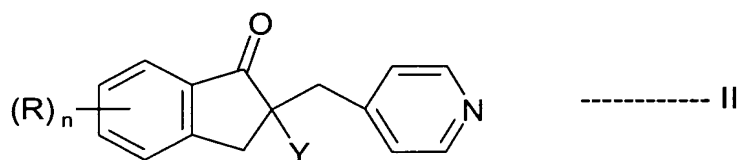
- 1) A process for the preparation of the compound of the general formula I or a salt thereof:

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wherein R represents, the same as or different from each other, a hydrogen atom or a lower alkoxy group, n represents an integer of 1 to 4 and Y represents H or F,

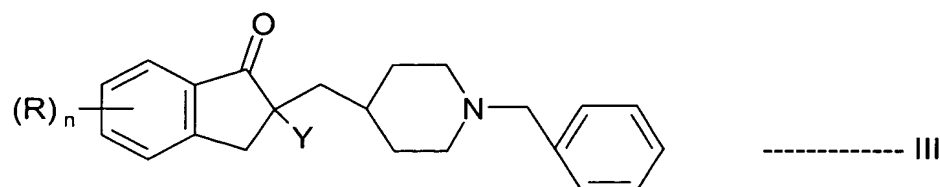
- 10 which comprises hydrogenating the compound of the general formula II:



wherein R, n and Y have the same meaning as defined above, with hydrogen using platinum oxide, palladium-carbon, raney nickel or ruthenium oxide catalyst  
15 in the presence of an acid under a hydrogen pressure of 1 to 10 bars and optionally converting the compound of the formula I to the salt.

- 2) A process according to claim 1, wherein R is methoxy or ethoxy; n is 1-3; and Y is fluorine or hydrogen.
- 3) A process according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula I is 4-  
20 [(5,6-dimethoxy-1-indanon)-2-yl]methylpiperidine or a salt thereof.
- 4) A process according to claim 1, wherein 0.1 to 10 moles of the acid per mole of the compound of formula II is used.
- 5) A process according to claim 4, wherein 0.5 to 5.0 moles of the acid per mole of the compound of formula II is used.
- 25 6) A process according to claim 1, wherein the acid is selected from hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid and acetic acid.
- 7) A process according to claim 6, wherein the acid is hydrochloric acid.

- 8) A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is platinum oxide.
- 9) A process according to claim 1, wherein the pressure is about 1 to 6 bars.
- 10) A process according to claim 9, wherein the pressure is about 1 to 4 bars.
- 11) A process according to claim 1, further comprises reacting the product of the  
 5 claim 1 with a benzyl halide, wherein halide is bromide, chloride or iodide to  
 give a compound of the formula III or a salt thereof:



wherein R, n and Y has the same meaning as defined in claim 1.

- 10 12) A process according to claim 11, wherein R is methoxy or ethoxy and n is 1  
 to 3.
- 13) A process according to claim 12, wherein the compound of the formula III is  
 1-benzyl-4-[(5,6-dimethoxy-1-indanon-2-yl)methyl]piperidine or hydrochloride  
 salt thereof.

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